



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09096-9351

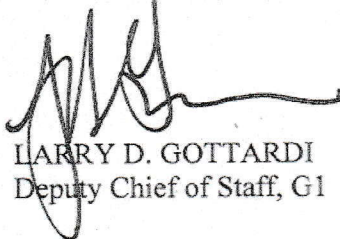
AEPE

9 September 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

1. The minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council meeting of 12 August 2015 have been reviewed and approved.
2. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL (Ret) Robert Mentell, President, Army in Europe Retiree Council at [+49] (171) 786-1669 or email robert.a.mentell.vol@mail.mil.



LARRY D. GOTTARDI
Deputy Chief of Staff, G1

Encl

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EA Co-Chair, Chief of Staff, Army, Retiree Council
EA Member, European Tri-Component Retiree Council
EA Member, Army in Europe Retiree Council

AEAGA-AERC

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

Mr. Edward J. Drohan

Assistant Public Affairs Officer, US Army
Regional Health Command Europe

3. Opening Remarks: (COL Mentell).

a. President welcomed attendees to the 35th Anniversary meeting of what began as the USAREUR Retiree Council. LTC Dick, the remaining active founding member, related that the Council actually started three years prior to the first meeting with letters to CINCUSAREUR asking for command recognition of the retiree council.

b. President introduced SGM Richter as the newest member of the AERC.

c. President announced Senior Chief Petty Officer (USN) Luis Patino as a new associate member of the AERC by virtue of his designation as the new Senior Enlisted Leader, USEUCOM Manpower, Personnel & Administration Directorate (ECJ1). Unfortunately SCPO Patino was unable to participate in the meeting, but arranged for MSG Bolhassen to attend on his behalf.

d. President expressed thanks to COL (USA) Shawn Boland, the new ECJ1 director, for the participation of representatives in the AERC meetings.

4. Review of the Agenda / Acceptance of the Minutes.

a. President stated that the Liaison Report will not be reviewed during this meeting due to technical / automation issues. No other comments / modifications were made to the agenda.

b. Minutes of the 28 May 2015 Council meeting were accepted as presented.

5. President's Report: (COL Mentell).

a. Office Calls with Army in Europe Leadership:

(1) On 3 June, the President briefed the Garrison Commanders Working Group. The meeting was chaired by Region Director, IMCOM-Europe, at which all enduring garrisons were represented, notionally by the garrison commander, garrison command sergeant major, and the deputy to the garrison commander, and in which most of the senior Region staff participated.

(2) On 11 June, President, Vice President, and representatives of the USAG Wiesbaden met to review the OPORD for the 2015 Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by US Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

(3) On 8 July, the President met with the Garrison Commander, USAG Vicenza.

(4) The office call with the USAREUR DCG, originally scheduled for Tuesday, 11 August, was postponed until the afternoon of Wednesday, 12 August.

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6. DCS, G1, Report (COL Pollock).

a. USAREUR Transformation Update: No major changes to report; 12th CAB continues to restructure.

b. Changes In Leadership: No changes to USAREUR leadership. COL Pollock did indicate that COL Bradford, the new Deputy Region Director, IMCOM-Europe, wants to participate in future AERC meetings.

c. AFRC Garmisch Eligibility: COL Pollock has asked COL Mentell and Mr. Francis to prepare a paper for IMCOM-Europe that specifies Requests for Information (RFIs) on the details surrounding the recent change to eligibility at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, AFRC Garmisch.

7. IMCOM-Europe Report (Ms. Lott).

a. IMCOM-Europe Transformation Update:

(1) COL Jim M. Bradford is the new Deputy Regional Director.

(2) COL Steven M. Marks will assume command of USAG Vicenza from departing commander COL Robert L. Menist Jr.

(3) The designation of USAG Vicenza will change to USAG Italy.

(4) USAG Ansbach will be assuming responsibility for US Army installations in Bulgaria and Romania.

b. AFRC Garmisch Eligibility: Ms. Lott introduced Ms. Schweitzer who was participating to respond to questions regarding recent changes to the eligibility criteria to stay at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

(1) COL Mentell had three questions drafted for the paper he is preparing for COL Pollock and used the opportunity to ask Ms. Schweitzer those questions. Due to the complexity of the SOFA, the wording in AE Regulation 600-700, and the lack of insight on the facts regarding the recent staffing, IMCOM-Europe asked to receive the questions in writing in order to provide an appropriate response.

(2) CDR Brennen, ETRC chairperson for 2015, stated that the AFRC Garmisch eligibility issue will be included on the agenda for the December ETRC meeting.

8. Retirement Services Officer Report (Mr. Malone).

a. Pending Departure: Mr. Malone announced his retirement. His last duty day will be Friday, 30 October 2015. He said he plans to attend all RADs except the AE RAD on 31 October. A hiring action is in for his replacement. In the event a replacement is not on-board at

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the time Mr. Malone departs, Ms. Deserie Garrett-Lehman, Chief, Military Personnel Branch, Human Resources Division, IMCOM-Europe, will assume the responsibilities as the acting Region Retirement Services Officer.

b. DFAS R&A Support to RADs: Coordination has been made for Retired and Annuitant Pay Directorate, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, to support the Retirement Appreciation Days at both USAG Rheinland-Pfalz/Ramstein Air Base and the Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by USAG Wiesbaden. The details and technology for this "virtual" support are being worked out.

c. Update on Garrison RSOs: All Garrison RSOs are on-board and the training cycle for SBP is happening next month.

d. Generic Email Addresses for Garrison RSOs: Mr. Malone confirmed the existence of organizational email addresses for all garrison RSO, e.g., usarmy.stuttgart.imcom-europe.list.retired-services@mail.mil, acknowledging that they were not standard across all of the seven enduring garrisons. He did not report on the status of the establishment of generic email addresses for those offices, e.g., rso.stuttgart@mail.mil.

e. Retired Soldier Deaths: Mr. Malone has studied trends in the EUCOM footprint. The average number of Retired Soldier deaths per year is 71, with the past two years being slightly higher at 91 and 84 respectively. This data has been shared with COL Mentell for further dissemination to Council members. SGM Stewart suggested that now may be a good time to prepare and disseminate an information paper that highlights the military mortuary services available in theater, the procedures for the repatriation of remains from theater, and the waiting-time for burial at national cemeteries.

9. US Army Regional Health Command Europe (RHCE) Spot Report (Mr. Ed Drohan). Mr. Drohan announced the re-designation of the US Army Europe Regional Medical Command to be the US Army Regional Health Command Europe. He emphasized that beneficiaries/patients will see no any change in services.

a. The US Army Europe Regional Dental Command and the US Army Public Health Command Region-Europe, re-designated as the US Army Regional Dental Command Europe (RDCE) and the US Army Regional Public Health Command Europe, will now fall under the command and control of RHCE.

b. Bavaria Health Command is the new name for Bavaria Medical Department Activity (Bavaria MEDDAC).

c. The designation of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) will remain unchanged.

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10. Chief of Staff, Army, Retired Soldier Council (CSARSC) Call for Issues (COL Mentell and LTC Fulton).

a. COL Mentell reminded participants of the cycle in the Army in Europe for requesting, receiving, evaluating, and submitting issues for consideration by the CSARSC:

- 12 August: Call for issues
- 23 October: Submission of issues to DCS, G1, USAREUR
- 31 October: Evaluation of issues by the AERC
- 9 December: Coordination of issues at the ETRC meeting
- 31 December: Approval and submission of issues

b. COL Mentell stated that a USAREUR letter inviting IMCOM-Europe to submit issues to USAREUR DCS, G1, is in preparation. Mr. Malone said that IMCOM-Europe had already tasked its garrisons to submit issues to RD, IMCOM-Europe, by 18 September.

11. Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day Hosted by USAG Wiesbaden Spot Report. The AE RAD will be held on Saturday, 31 October, at the Clay Kaserne Community Activity Center.

a. The garrison has hosted two IPRs, in July and in August, at which LTC Fulton represented the Council.

(1) In addition to DFAS providing "virtual" support to the event, representatives of the Federal Benefits Unit of the US Consulate General Frankfurt will be present to provide services.

(2) The Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate (FMWR), USAG Wiesbaden, will host a Military Retiree Appreciation Social at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center in the Hainerberg Housing Area, on the evening of Friday, 30 October.

b. DCS, G1, confirmed that LTG Frederick B. Hodges, Commanding General USAREUR, will provide a command update and GEN (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan, President, Association of the United States Army, will provide an update on Retired Soldier issues from the Washington perspective.

(1) A Healthcare Roundtable, made up of representatives of RHCE, RDCE, and TRICARE Area Office Eurasia and Africa, will be held immediately following the Speakers' Program.

(2) The Retiree Council Presidents' Meeting will also be held immediately following the Speakers' Program in an upstairs conference room. The presidents (or their representatives) of all military retiree councils in the Army in Europe area of operations, along with members of the European Tri-Component Retiree Council and the European members of the service-level retiree councils, will be invited to participate in this event.

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12. European Tri-Component Retiree Council (ETRC) Spot Report (CDR Brennan).

a. The next ETRC Meeting will be held at Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, on Wednesday, 9 December 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to coordinate all potential issues prior to the components referring them to their respective service-level retiree councils.

b. CDR Brennan highlighted the fact that there is no formalized process for handling retiree issues at the combatant command level, which is why the ETRC serves as a key forum for capturing and considering issues common to all retired service members in theater. ECJ1 provides a key function is advising the component representatives on potential issues and the current situation from their perspective.

13. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Retiree Council Spot Report (CDR Brennan).

a. CDR Brennan provided an overview of issues discussed that the recent SECNAV Retiree Council. SECNAV Retiree Council priority issues were identified as:

- Shortages of Mental Health Providers
- Change to Usage of Temporary Disability Retiree List / Permanent Disability Retiree List
- Concurrent Receipt
- SBP / DIC Offset
- Agent Orange and Blue-Water Navy.

b. The SECNAV Retiree Council will receive new Co-Chairs this year. CDR Brennan requested contact information for the DA RSO so that he can facilitate more interaction between the SECNAV co-chairs and CSARSC co-chairs.

14. Observational Feedback

a. LTC Bergman stated that retired service members are having increasing difficulty in gaining access to installation in the Benelux footprint, especially to the SHAPE installation. He said he would gather addition information and share it with Mr. Francis and COL Mentell. COL Pollock indicated he would send a note to Garrison Commander, USAG Benelux, if needed.

b. SGM Norris highlighted the presentation by Garrison Commander, USAG Ansbach, of the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation to a WWII vet, Mr. Eugene Green, living in Bamberg. Due to health limitations, Mr. Green was unable to attend the 2014 AE RAD ceremony last Fall in Wiesbaden at which the certificates were presented.

c. SGM Stewart stated that the USAG Bavaria Retiree Council is struggling to find volunteers to serve as members of the council. He attributes this challenge in part to the loss of personnel who are forced to leave as a result of the 5-Year Rule.

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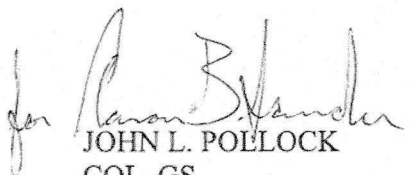
15. Council Administration: (COL Mentell)

- a. Existing Membership Vacancies:
None
- b. Projected Member Vacancies (thru 3rd Qtr, CY 16):
None
- c. Existing Office Vacancies:
None
- d. Projected Officer Vacancies (thru 3rd Qtr, CY 16)
President - 31 Dec 15
Vice President - 30 June 16
Secretary - 30 Sep 16

16. Review of Immediate Action List (LTC Fulton):

- a. COL Mentell will disseminate slides and additional information received from Mr. Malone to the AERC members.
- b. Mr. Francis and COL Mentell will provide COL Pollock with a memorandum requesting information on the basis for the changes in the eligibility criteria for AFRC Garmisch for further forwarding to IMCOM-Europe.
- c. SGM Stewart will research and begin drafting an update on military support available upon the death of Retired Soldiers in theater.
- d. LTC Fulton will provide CDR Brennan with contact information for the DA RSO.

17. Selection of Meeting Date/Adjournment. The next meeting of the Council will be on Friday, 30 October, ICW AE RAD on Saturday, 31 October.


JOHN L. POLLOCK
COL, GS
DCofS, G1, Representative

MENTELL.ROBER
T.A.1098576270
ROBERT MENTELL
COL, USA (Retired)
President

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09096-9351

AEPE-AERC

24 August 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, United States Army, Europe, ATTN: AECG,
Unit 29351, APO AE 09096

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Army in Europe Retiree Council Meeting

1. The 135th meeting of the Army in Europe Retiree Council (AERC) convened at 1000 hours on 12 August 2015 in the USAREUR G1 Conference Room, Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden with most of the members joining by teleconference, as planned. The first meeting was held on 29 August 1980, making the AERC now 35 years old.

2. The following persons were present:

a. Members:

COL (Ret) Robert A. Mentell	President
LTC (Ret) David V. Fulton	Vice President
LTC (Ret) William K. Bergman	Member
LTC (Ret) Sheldon L. Dick	Member
CSM (Ret) Samuel D. Coston	Member
SGM (Ret) Donald R. Norris	Member
SGM (Ret) Michael D. Richter	Member
SGM (Ret) David B. Stewart	Member

b. Advisory Members:

COL John Pollock	Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, USAREUR, and USAREUR G1 Representative to the Council
Ms. Lynn Lott	Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, IMCOM-Europe
Mr. Mike Malone	Retirement Services Officer, IMCOM-Europe

c. Associate Members:

CDR (USN, Ret) Thomas Brennan	USNAVEUR member of the European Tri- Component Retiree Council and member of the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council
MSG Mohammad Bolhassen	O/ECJ1, USEUCOM, representing SCPO Luis F. Patino, SEL, ECJ1, USEUCOM

d. Visitors:

Mr. Eduardo G. Francis	Chief, Military Policy, DCS, G1, USAREUR
Ms. Mary K. Schweitzer	Chief, NAF Support Branch, Assistant Chief of Staff, G9, IMCOM-Europe